Families 1st Partnership Collaborative Partners meeting 5.26.2020 1 pm

In attendance: Kathy Scusa, NE Commission of Deaf/Hard of Hearing; Ashley Lewis, Connection Homeless Shelter; Brittany Masters, Families 1st Partnership; Bobbie Carpenter, Central Plains Center for Services; Lori Hansen, 5 Rings Financial; Cherish Lienemann, Educational Development Network;

* Denotes resources either available or to be researched \*

Needs:

1.Homeless or facing homelessness

* Connection Shelter can take individuals to quarantine, then test—no family apartments Many are staying longer
* More $ available if COVID related-
* Those who have been chronically homeless are with-out resources, but it isn’t COVID related so less access to resources
* Community Action—must be COVID related
* Youth voucher—MidWest Housing, Ogallala, Kelsey Snow for non B2I youth [www.wcnha.housingmanager.com](http://www.wcnha.housingmanager.com)
* Families 1st Partnership—website application

2. As stimulus checks run out, there is more need for assistance with utilities/rent for youth in particular

* See above for MidWest Housing—rent only through HUD—must find the property

3. Emotional health for all people, lack of social contact has started possible depression, lack of motivation, parents also feel like they need a break, need to realize that kids ought to get outside

* Positive reminders social distancing, safe health habits, responsibility for safety
* Visit North Platte Facebook site\*
* Coaching by phone to talk through ideas for local options for entertainment, problem solving, refer to helplines\* , retired therapists or nurses?\*

4. Attendance to therapy or educational opportunities not consistent.

* Reminder call or text prior to an appointment
* Someone else register for them—receive the email reminder, calendar reminders,
* Check with Family support agencies to be more intentional with reminders, connect to educational opportunities, \*
* Require educational or coaching contacts in order for assistance to be approved\*

5. Increase in substance abuse

* Encourage development of an AA or NA group for younger people
* Promote support FaceBook pages:
  + NA Chainbreakers-North Platte FaceBook
  + Mamas helping mamas-more item support
  + Independence Rising-Families Care.org—peer support
  + Fam 1st Youth advisor

6. Increase in crime due to financial needs—Theft in particular, but also more violence

* Continuous offering of financial support programs-Community Action, RDAP, Region II, DHHS AccessNE

7. Transportation continues as a problem especially as access to buses is restricted.

* PIN protected gas cards from Fam 1st—check into email confirmation for PIN and amount
* Bus passes—available
* More walking or getting rides from a friend

8. Zoom is not as familiar method of communication—especially for building relationships-missing personal connection, difficulty in evaluation, or observation

* Educate or walk through with person by phone to improve understanding of the technology
* Consider other options for meeting with families or individuals when it can be in compliance with health directives

9. Use of facemasks hinders communication for those who are deaf or hard of hearing and depend on lip reading.

* Voice to text apps on smart phones or tablet
* Texting feature on phone for voice to text.

10. Elderly may still be those who struggle with getting enough food

* Plan with Gary’s and Senior center to get food packs to those with Meals on Wheels

11. Future need—face masks when in person visits begin.

* Families may be given cloth masks initially, but eventually families will be required to have masks to carry out any visits, etc. –keep the ones given to them.—wash and reuse.

12. Glasses for those not on Medicaid

Resource: Adams State Bank---Lions Club

13. Employment—many have still not been called back to work

* Many job seekers aren’t putting in effort to follow through with employer contact
* Anticipate going back to a job so not very interested in getting a job in between times --no pressure or need to apply if they are already getting benefits
* No followup on job seeking efforts-only that they’ve met the required number of applications